

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 and 3-11, without prejudice.

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising:  
a liquid crystal cell comprising a pair of substrates and a liquid crystal layer arranged between the pair of substrates, the liquid crystal of the liquid crystal cell being of a vertical alignment type;

first and second polarizers arranged on either side of the liquid crystal cell;

a first retardation plate arranged between the liquid crystal cell and the first polarizer;

a second retardation plate arranged between the liquid crystal cell and the second polarizer;

each of the first and second retardation plates having an optical axis in a plane parallel to the surfaces of the substrates and a retardation of substantially  $\lambda/4$ , the optical axis of the first retardation plate being perpendicular to the optical axis of the second retardation plate, the negative retardation  $((n_x + n_y) / 2 - n_z)$  of each of the retardation plates being approximately zero;

a first optical plate arranged on or near the liquid crystal cell and having refractive indices in the relationship of  $n_x = n_y > n_z$ , the first optical plate having a

retardation the value of which is identical to that of the liquid crystal layer and the sign of which is reverse to that of the liquid crystal layer;

a second optical plate having refractive indices in the relationship of  $n_x = n_y < n_z$ , said second optical plate or a part thereof being arranged on or near the first polarizer; and

a third optical plate arranged on or near the second polarizer and having refractive indices in the relationship of  $n_x > n_y = n_z$ .

15. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 14, wherein the retardation of the second optical plate is not less than 80 nm and not more than 300 nm.

16. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 14, wherein the retardation of the third optical plate is not less than 25 nm and not more than 160 nm.